

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A method of operating a distributed parallel processing system, comprising:

providing a server system;

coupling the server system to a network, the network being connectable to distributed devices;

providing an incentive to couple the distributed devices to the server system through the network so that the distributed devices are capable of performing workloads for the distributed parallel processing system;

identifying a workload capability factor for a plurality of the distributed devices; and

utilizing the identified workload capability factor within the server system.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the incentive is a reward program.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the incentive is a sweepstakes.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the incentive includes a monetary payment.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining an incentive value for one or more of the plurality of distributed devices based upon the workload completed by the distributed devices.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the incentive value comprises entries in a sweepstakes.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining an incentive value for one or more of the plurality of distributed devices based upon the workload capabilities of the distributed devices.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the incentive value comprises entries in a sweepstakes.

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9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein workload capability factors for the distributed device are determined by a benchmark workload.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the server system schedules and allocates workloads to the distributed devices based upon the workload capability factor determined by the benchmark workload.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the workload capability factor for at least one distributed device is determined by the workload actually performed by the distributed device.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the workload capability factor for at least one distributed device is determined by the capabilities of the distributed device.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the identified workload capability factor is utilized to determine an entry value to a sweepstakes.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the entry value increases for increased capabilities of the distributed device.

15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the workload is a site testing workload.

16. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the workload is an indexing workload.

17. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identified workload capability factor is utilized to determine an allocation of workloads among the distributed devices.

18. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of the identified workload capability factors are utilized by the server system to schedule workloads among the distributed devices.

19. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises an internet.

20. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises an intranet.

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21. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises a wireless network.

22. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising transferring an agent from the server system to the distributed devices, the agent being capable of managing the workload.

23. (original) The method of claim 22, wherein the agent is further capable of providing information to a user of a distributed device.

24. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein the agent is further capable of providing information to a user about an increase in the incentive for an increase in the workload capability of the distributed device.

25. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein the incentive increase information is directed to an upgrade for the distributed system.

26. (original) The method of claim 25, wherein the incentive increase information is directed to a particular manufacturer of an upgrade product.

27. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the workload capability factor includes processor capabilities of the distributed devices.

28. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the workload capability factor includes a storage capacity capability of the distributed devices.

29. (currently amended) A distributed parallel processing system, comprising:

a server system coupled to a network, the network being connectable to distributed devices;

a capability database coupled to the server system, the capability database storing workload capability factors for the plurality of distributed devices; and

an incentive database coupled to the server system, the incentive database storing incentive values for a plurality of the distributed devices, the plurality of distributed devices being capable of performing workloads for the distributed parallel

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processing system, and the server system utilizing the workload capacity capability factors to determine the incentive values for the plurality of distributed devices.

30. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the incentive is a sweepstakes.

31. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the incentive includes a monetary payment.

32. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the incentive values are based upon the workload completed by the distributed devices.

33. (original) The system of claim 32, wherein the incentive values comprises entries in a sweepstakes.

34. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the incentive values are based upon the workload capabilities of the distributed devices.

35. (original) The system of claim 34, wherein the incentive values comprise entries in a sweepstakes.

36. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein workload capability factors for the distributed devices are determined by a benchmark workload.

37. (original) The system of claim 36, further comprising a workload database coupled to the server system, the server system allocating workloads to the distributed devices based upon the workload capability factor determined by the benchmark workload.

38. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the incentive values increase for increased capabilities of the distributed devices.

39. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the workload comprises a network site testing workload or network site content indexing.

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40. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the workload comprises a bioinformatics workload, a pair-wise comparison workload or a data mining workload.

41. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the server system utilizes the workload capability factors to determine an allocation of workloads among the distributed devices.

42. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the network comprises an internet.

43. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the network comprises an intranet.

44. (original) The system of claim 29, further comprising an agent coupled to the server system and being capable of being transferred from the server system to the distributed devices, the agent being capable of managing the workload.

45. (original) The system of claim 44, wherein the agent is further capable of providing information to a user of a distributed device.

46. The system of claim 45, wherein the agent is further capable of providing information to a user about an increase in the incentive value for an increase in the capability of the distributed system.

47. (original) The system of claim 46, wherein the incentive increase information is directed to an upgrade for the distributed device.

48. (original) The system of claim 47, wherein the incentive increase information is directed to a particular manufacturer of an upgrade product.

49. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the workload capability factor includes a processor capability of the distributed devices.

50. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the workload capability factor includes a storage capacity capability of the distributed devices.

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51. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the network comprises a wireless network.

52. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the distributed devices comprise wireless devices.

53. (new) A method of configuring a distributed parallel processing system, comprising:

providing a server system;

coupling the server system to a network, the network being connectable to distributed devices;

providing a notice to the distributed devices of the server system of a desire to configure the distributed parallel processing system through coupling selected ones of the distributed devices through the network, wherein the selected distributed devices are enabled by the server system to perform workloads for the configured distributed parallel processing system;

providing an incentive to the distributed devices communicating with the server system through the network in response to the notice to participate in the configured distributed parallel processing system;

generating a workload capability factor quantifying a workload processing capability for each of the selected distributed devices; and

managing the selected distributed devices participation in the configured distributed parallel processing system by the server system utilizing the workload capability factor.

54. (new) The method of claim 53, further comprising generating an incentive value for a distributed device in response to a completed workload.

55. (new) The method of claim 53, further comprising generating an incentive value for a distributed device in response to a workload capability factor generated for the distributed device.

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56. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the workload capability factor is generated in response to a performance in completing a benchmark workload.

57. (new) The method of claim 56, wherein the server system schedules and allocates workloads to the selected distributed devices based upon the workload capability factor generated in response to the performance in completing the benchmark workload.

58. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the workload capability factor is generated in response to a workload completed by one of the selected distributed devices for the configured distributed parallel processing system.

59. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the workload capability factor is utilized to determine an entry value to a sweepstakes.

60. (new) The method of claim 59, wherein the sweepstakes entry value increases for an increased workload capability factor of the selected distributed device.

61. (new) The method of claim 53, further comprising the step of transferring a software agent from the server system to the selected distributed devices, wherein the software agent manages a workload performed by the selected distributed devices.

62. (new) The method of claim 61, wherein the software agent further provides information to a user about an increase in an incentive value offered for an increase in the workload capability factor of the selected distributed device.

63. (new) A distributed parallel processing system, comprising:

a server system coupled to a network configured to connect to distributed devices;

selected distributed devices of the distributed devices coupled through the network, wherein the selected distributed devices are enabled by the server system to perform workloads for the distributed parallel processing system;

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capability storage coupled to the server system for storing workload capability factors quantifying a workload processing capability for each of the selected of the distributed devices; and

incentive storage coupled to the server system for storing incentive values to be offered to the selected distributed devices as compensation for participating in performing workloads for the distributed parallel processing system, wherein the server system manages the selected distributed devices participation in the distributed parallel processing system utilizing the workload capability factors.

64. (new) The system of claim 63, wherein an incentive value for a selected distributed device is determined in response to a completed workload.

65. (new) The system of claim 63, wherein an incentive value for a selected distributed device is determined in response to a workload capability factor generated for the selected distributed device.

66. (new) The system of claim 63, wherein the workload capability factor is generated in response to a performance in completing a benchmark workload.

67. (new) The system of claim 66, wherein the server system schedules and allocates workloads to the selected distributed devices based upon the workload capability factor generated in response to the performance in completing the benchmark workload.

68. (new) The system of claim 63, wherein the workload capability factor is generated in response to a workload completed by one of the selected distributed devices for the configured distributed parallel processing system.

69. (new) The system of claim 63, wherein the workload capability factor is utilized to determine an entry value to a sweepstakes.

70. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein the sweepstakes entry value increases for an increased workload capability factor of the selected distributed device.

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71. (new) The system of claim 63, further comprising a software agent transferred from the server system to the selected distributed devices, wherein the software agent manages a workload performed by the selected distributed devices.

72. (new) The system of claim 71, wherein the software agent further provides information to a user about an increase in an incentive value offered for an increase in the workload capability factor of the selected distributed device.

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